Department from the purview of the Consumer Protection Act; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government have taken into account that such a step will render the Act ineffective in achieving the objects which led to its enactment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The Department of Telecommunications has proposed exemption of the Telecommunication Services from the purview of Consumer Protection Act.

(b) The reasons for seeking such exemption are:

(i) Elaborate grievances redressal machineries already exist within the Department of Telecommunications. Some of the forums where a subscriber can make his complaints and get the redressal of his grievances are given below:

(1) In case of service complaints the subscriber can dial '198' or any of the officials of the Department normally listed in a telephone Directory;

(2) Public grievances Cells in large offices;

(3) Over 400 Customer Service Centres throughout the Country;

(4) Telephone Adalats and Open House Sessions;

(5) Officers of the Department meet public normally on all working days;

(6) Telecom Advisory Committees, which have representation from various public forms;

(7) Provision exists for arbitration in disputes between the subcriber and the Department under Section 7B of the Indian Telegraph Act.

(ii) Certain anomalies exists between the Consumer Protection Act and the Indian Telegraph Act.

Exempting the Telecommunication Department from the purview of Consumer Protection Act will not render the Act ineffective in achieving the objects which led to its enactment as alternative remedies are already available to telephone subscribers for redressal of their grievances and settlement of disputes.

Fall-out of ban on use of English

3326. DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN:
KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the likelihood of North-South divide being caused in the country as a result of the demand of some Chief Ministers to ban the use of English; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to avoid any scheme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Under Article 345 of the Constitution, the legislatures of various States have adopted, by law, one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as Official language for their official purposes. Some State Governments have been issuing orders from time to time to ensure compliance of the provisions of the Acts relating to their official language. In the recent past, some Hindi speaking State Governments have reitertaed these orders to ensure their compliance. Such orders are under the provisions of the Constitution and are within the jurisdiction of the State Governments. So far as official language for communication between one State and another or between a State and the Union is concerned, the State Governments are expected to take action according to Article 346 of the Constitution and the Official Languages Act, 1963. Article 346 of the Constitution provides as follows:—

The language for the time being authorised for use in the Union for official purposes shall be the Official

Language for communication between one State and another State and between a State and the Union:

Provided that if two or more States agree that the Hindi language should be the official language for communication between such States, that language may be used for such communication.

According to Section 3(1) of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the English language may, as from the appointed day, continue to be used, in addition to Hindi, for all the official puposes of the Union for which it was being used immediately before that day and for the transaction of business in Parliament. The Section also provides that the English language shall be used for purposes of communication between the Union and a State which has not adopted Hindi as its official language. further, where Hindi is used for purposes of communication between one State which has adopted Hindi as its official language and another State which has not adopted Hindi as its official language such communication in Hindi shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in the English language.

Besides the four South Indian non-Hindi speaking States, there are non-Hindi speaking States in the East, North-East, West and North India who have adopted their own official languages. Hence the use of Hindi, which is their official language, by the Hindi speaking States cannot be construed as a step likely to cause North-South divide. In view of the above, there is no question of any steps being taken by the Central Government in this regard.

देश में स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों को दी गई सुविधाएं

3327. **कुमारी सईदा खातून :**
कुमारी सुशीला तिरिया :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों की संख्या कितनी है और उन्हें दी जा रही सुविधाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार गांवों में रहने वाले ऐसे स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के संबंध में कोई सर्वेक्षण करने का विचार रखती है, जिन्हें अभी तक कोई पेन्शन नहीं दी गई है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो मध्य प्रदेश तथा उड़ीसा में ऐसे स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों की संख्या कितनी है

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुबोध कान्त सहाय) : (क) देश में स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों और विभिन्न प्राधिकारियों द्वारा उनको दी जाने वाली सुविधाओं के बारे में सूचना गृह मंत्रालय के पास उपलब्ध नहीं है। तथापि, 31 जुलाई, 1990 तक केन्द्रीय राजस्व से 1,5 ,0.5 स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों को पेंशन की मंजूरी दी गई है। पेंशन के अलावा, वे जीवन-भर अपने लिए और पति या पत्नी/सहयोगी के लिए मुफ्त रेलवे पास और सभी केन्द्रीय सहकारी अस्पतालों (केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों द्वारा संचालित अस्पतालों में) मुफ्त चिकित्सा उपचार प्राप्त करने के हकदार हैं। कुछ शर्तों पर स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों को चिकित्सा उपचार की आवश्यकता में उन्हें दिल्ली में सरकारी आवास भी प्रदान किया जाता है। दिल्ली में, उन स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों के लिए एक स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानी घर भी है, जिनके पास देखभाल करने वाला कोई व्यक्ति नहीं है।

(ख) ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन नहीं है।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Influx of students to India from Myanmar

3328. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to post election developments many youths and students have fled from Burma (Mayanmar) to India to escape from army wrath;